

*THE* ARISTOCATS

# The Surprise Party





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Written by Victoria Saxon

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**E**arly one morning, Thomas O'Malley yawned, stretched . . . and found three little kittens jumping on his bed. Marie, Berlioz, and Toulouse began singing cheerily while Duchess presented O'Malley with a dish of cream.

"Happy birthday!" the cats sang out.







“Well, gee, that’s the best birthday present I ever got!” O’Malley exclaimed. “Thanks a bunch!” Turning to the kittens, he said, “I don’t suppose anyone wants to help me eat my breakfast?”

“Oh, thank you, Mr. O’Malley!” the kittens replied as they began lapping the cream.



When they had finished eating, O'Malley said, "Say, I was hoping to spend some time with Scat Cat and the band—"

"Well, Thomas," Duchess quickly interrupted. "We actually have quite a big day planned for your birthday. Perhaps you can meet with them later."

"Really? Plans for *my* birthday?" O'Malley said.





“Now, children,” Duchess began, “who wants to give Thomas his birthday present first?”

“I do, I do!” Toulouse replied. “Follow me, Mr. O’Malley!”

“Yeah,” said Berlioz. “Follow him!”

As soon as O’Malley’s back was turned, Duchess whispered to Berlioz and Marie: “Come, children! Let’s get on with our plans for Thomas’s surprise party!”







Toulouse led O'Malley into the sunroom.

"Today I'm gonna paint your portrait. Face this way, please, and don't move!"

Toulouse began squirting paint from various tubes.

O'Malley was so busy watching Toulouse that he didn't see what was happening behind him.





A little while later, Toulouse presented his painting to O'Malley.

"That's real swell, Toulouse," O'Malley said. "I don't suppose you could teach me how to do that."

"Sure!" Toulouse replied. "I can teach ya!" He smothered a smile. The birthday surprise plans were right on track!



Toulouse showed O'Malley how to mix paints to get different colors. Then they outlined a picture. They painted and painted and painted.







Berlioz and Marie made sure O'Malley was looking at them—not outside, where the others were setting up the surprise party.

Berlioz stretched along the keyboard and played their new song while Marie began to sing. O'Malley was loving the tempo and couldn't believe they had written him his very own tune. He found himself tapping and singing along, just as Berlioz and Marie had planned.

"Thank you for the best birthday song I've ever heard!" O'Malley said when they had finished.





As early evening approached, O'Malley was getting ready to find Scat Cat and the band when Duchess asked if she could take him on a birthday stroll.

They wandered all around Madame's courtyard. When they reached the end of the garden, Duchess pulled a wrapped gift from behind a rosebush.

"Happy birthday, dear Thomas," she said.

"A bow tie! Thanks, Duchess," he said. "Between you and those kittens, this has been a terrific birthday!"



"It's not over yet, you know," Duchess told him. "We do have one last surprise for you."

Duchess led O'Malley into the dining room.

"I hope everything is to your liking," Madame said to O'Malley.

Toulouse, Berlioz, and Marie were there with Roquefort, too.

"Happy birthday!" they all called out.





They had prepared all his favorite foods. "I'm stuffed," O'Malley said after enjoying the treats. "Say, what a terrific birthday! And the best part has been sharing it with all of you."







It was starting to get dark outside, and O'Malley turned to the kittens. "I think it's almost time for bed, little ones," he said.





“Before we go to bed, can we go look at the stars?” Marie asked.

“Well, sure, I don’t see why not,” O’Malley replied.

“Oh, yes,” Duchess added as they all headed outside. “That’s a wonderful idea. And Thomas! I have to confess . . . I told you a little white lie. The dinner was your second-to-last birthday surprise. . . .”



“Surprise!” yelled Duchess and the kittens.

“Surprise!” hollered Scat Cat and the band.

“Wow!” O’Malley exclaimed. Turning to Duchess and the kittens, he asked, “How did you pull this off? You were with me all day!”



Marie giggled. “Well, sometimes some of us were with you . . .”

“While others of us were preparing,” Duchess concluded.



It was a fantastic celebration, and  
everyone had a wonderful time.





Berlioz, Toulouse, and Marie even  
got to stay up late to enjoy the fun.







When the night finally ended, O'Malley turned to Duchess and the kittens. "Thanks for the best birthday I ever had! It's over now, right?" he said, laughing.

Duchess smiled at him. "Your birthday is over, but I think we'll keep on celebrating you being in our lives for a long time yet. Right, children?"

"Yes," Toulouse whispered, yawning. "Happy birthday to you, Abraham DeLacey Giuseppe Casey Thomas O'Malley!"